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Baker Dam Is Recommended

Another boost to hopes of local people that some action will soon be taken toward a new hydro-electric power dam on the upper Baker river was given this week in the release of the power expansion report of the Puget Sound Utilities Council. During the next 8 years the five utilities, public and private, which make up the Council, will invest 670 million dollars or more in new electric power generation, transmission and distribution facilities.

First on the list of those recommended for immediate action by Jack D. Stevens, consulting engineer who prepared the report, is the new dam on the Baker!

This item was No. 19 in the 29 specific recommendations and calls for a capacity of 85,000 k.w. at the proposed upper Baker installation and an increase to 55,000 k.w. at the present Baker plant. According to the report: "This project would provide peaking capacity near load centers and would also make possible the utilization of an important part of Rock Island energy which is now unusable in Puget's load."

Stevens recommends: "Site investigation should be completed and construction should follow the establishment of economic feasibility so as to bring this project into operation as early as possible under normal construction procedures." In plain language: "If it is good site, build it soon."

The specifications for the dam as listed in the report call for a concrete, gravity type dam to impound water to a normal elevation of 724 feet. Gross static head would be 290 feet and installed capacity 85,000 k.w. The reservoir would provide 130,000 acre-feet of storage between the two installations.

At the present power house an extension of the building, additional penstocks and another generator would add another 55,000 k.w. This work could be completed ahead of the upper Baker installation.

The company now has a temporary permit to explore the dam site and has been doing much work on the upper Baker. Final decision hinges on approval of the fisheries department and, again, work in progress to discover an efficient way to get the sockeye run over both dams and back down again. If the present experiments prove out the last objections should vanish.

Marriage Revealed

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnston of